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NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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LECTURE CLVI.

WILL ITALY CAPITULATE?

WILL ITALIANS DIE FOR MUSSOLINI AND HITLER?

THE ROOSEVELT-CHURCHILL MESSAGE—JULY 16, 1943.

This is a message to the Italian people from the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of Great Britain. At this moment the combined Armed Forces of the United States, Great Britain, and Canada, under the command of Gen. Eisenhower and his Deputy, Gen. Sir H. Alexander, are carrying the war deep into the territory of your country.

This is the direct consequence of the shameful leadership to which you have been subjected by Mussolini and his Fascist regime.

Mussolini carried you into this war as the satellite of a brutal destroyer of peoples and liberties. Mussolini plunged you into a war which he thought Hitler had already won. In spite of Italy's great vulnerability to attack by air and sea, your Fascist leaders sent your sons, your ships, and your Air Forces to distant battle-fields, to aid Germany in her attempt to conquer England, Russia and the world.

This association with the designs of Nazi-controlled Germany was unworthy of Italy's ancient traditions of freedom and culture—traditions to which the peoples of America and Britain owe so much.

Your soldiers have fought not in the interests of Italy, but for Nazi Germany. They have fought courageously, but they have been betrayed and abandoned by the Germans on the Russian Front, and on every battle-field in Africa, from El Alamein to Cape Bon.

BLASTED ON ALL FRONTS.

GERMANY FACES DEFEAT.

To-day the German hopes for world conquest have been blasted on all fronts. The skies over Italy are dominated by the vast air armadas of the United States and Great Britain. Italy's sea coasts are threatened by the greatest accumulation of British and Allied sea power ever concentrated in the Mediterranean.

The forces now opposed to you are pledged to destroy the power of Nazi Germany—a power which has ruthlessly been used to inflict slavery, destruction, and death on all those who refuse to recognise the Germans as the master race.

The sole hope for Italy's survival lies in honourable capitulation to the overwhelming power of the military forces of the United Nations. If you continue to tolerate the Fascist régime, which serves the evil power of the Nazis, you must suffer the consequences of your own choice.

YOU HAVE THE CHOICE.

We take no satisfaction in invading Italian soil and bringing the tragic devastations of war home to the Italian people; but we are determined to destroy the false leaders and their doctrines which have brought Italy to her present position. Every moment that you resist the combined forces of the United Nations—every drop of blood that you sacrifice—can serve only one purpose; to give the Fascist and Nazi leaders a little more time to escape from the inevitable consequences of their own crimes.

All your interests, and all your traditions, have been betrayed by Nazi Germany and your own false and corrupt leaders; it is only by destroying both that a reconstituted Italy can hope to occupy a respected place in the family of European nations.

The time has come for you, Italian people, to consult your own self respect, and your own interests and your own desires, for the restoration of your national dignity, security, and peace. The time has come for you to decide whether the Italians shall die for Mussolini and Hitler or live for Italy and for civilisation.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

17—7—43 to 23—7—43.

ITALY.—Half of SICILY is now in Allied hands. The Allies are within 20 miles of the northern hills, the backbone of the island. The Axis centre is crumbling and there is a general retreat of the enemy towards the N–E.

In the Western Sector NARO, PONTA, OLIVIO, COMISO, ARGENTINO, PORT EMPEDOCLE and PALERMO, the capital of SICILY have been captured. In the centre, CALTANISSETTA has fallen and ENNA is threatened. In the Eastern Sector the British 8th Army is engaging the Germans in a fierce battle around CATANIA.

More than 500 bombers raided NAPLES for an hour and a half on July 17, damaging the Royal Arsenal, a torpedo factory, air-fields and railway communications.

ROME was raided in daylight for two hours and a half on July 19, sparing the Vatican. 350 tons of bombs were dropped. Prior to the raid, warning leaflets weredropped. The Littorio and San Lorenzo marshalling yards, the Ciampino and Labriao air-fields, the

Tabnelli steel-plant, petrol tanks and railway communications were damaged. Photographs indicate that in the case of the Littorio marshalling yards an area of 400 yards by two miles has been blasted and is strewn with a mass of twisted rails, gaping bomb craters and the wreckage of rolling stock.

RUSSIA.—The earlier German offensive has died down, followed by a Russian offensive. In a twin drive, the Russians have encircled OREL, the German hedge-hog base in C. RUSSIA. MTENSK, VOROSHILOVO and GORDISCHE, near OREL, have fallen. The OREL-BRYANSK railway, GERMANY'S life-line has been cut.

The Russian offensive is extending to other sectors, from the KARALIAN front in the north to NOVOROSSIK in the south. In the Donbas area, Red troops have crossed the North Donetz and the Mius.

The Pacific.—The Japanese base of MUBO, near SALAMAUA in N. GUINEA has been recaptured. During the operation, it is reported, cliffs had to be scaled and the Allied troops had to quench their thirst with the juice of bamboo trees. Patrol clashes occurred near Mt. Tambee and ORODUBI near SALAMAUA. Nine Japanese counter-attacks against the Allied position at Mount Ambu, in the MUBO area were repulsed.

The investment of MUNDA continues. The beleaguered garrison is deteriorating owing to the difficulty of getting supplies.

An enemy force of 3 cruisers, 6 destroyers and 2 transports attempting to run into Vila, with reinforcements and supplies were scattered by Allied bombers, sinking a cruiser and 2 destroyers, probably sinking a third destroyer and damaging a fourth. The remaining vessels withdrew.

In a night engagement, 3 Japanese destroyers were hit off KOLOMBANGARA. In N. BRITAIN a Japanese cargo ship was sunk at CAPE OXFORD and barges were strafed at MONTAGU harbour in CAPE CUNNINGHAM.

Burma.—There has been no change in the situation. Regular patrolling clashes continue in the ARAKAN Chin Hills and in the SUMPRABUM area. During the first 15 days of July, inspite of the monsoon, American aircraft carried out raids, regularly, except on the 5th, 6th, and 15th. During the week, the following targets were raided :—MEIKILA, SHWELI bridge, coastal craft in the Hunter Bay area and ELIZABETH Island, cotton mills at MYINGAN, railroads at MONYWA, the Mu bridge, supply dumps at CHAUMAWNGGA, KALUMGA, KAWAN, KADRANGYANG, river craft on the KALADAN, the road bridge at NSOPZUP, KALINIYO, RATHEDAUNG, MINBYA; and Sampans off W. BORONGA Island.

A single enemy aircraft approached the E. coast of CEYLON early on July 19 but dropped no bombs.

ALLIED AIR RAIDS.

12—7—43. (Monday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

Day:—

Transport and industrial targets in Northern FRANCE.

A minesweeper off the DUTCH coast (2 Allied planes missing; 1 Axis plane shot down).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

SAN GIOVANNI and REGGIO DI CALABRIA (both in Italy).

Enemy troop columns and lines of communications in SICILY.

Shipping in the TYRRHENIAN Sea.

The harbour at MESSINA (28 enemy planes shot down; 11 Allied planes missing).

TURIN (Italy).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

Camp areas in KISKA (Aleutians).

Jap positions at SALAMAUA (N. Georgia).
The air-fields at RABAUL (N. Britain).
Railroad installations at YWATAUNG (Burma).
Jap base at NANVASEIK (Burma).
SAGUN, MINGAN, MOGAUNG, SETON, TARO and TAGANKU (all in Burma).

13—7—43 (Tuesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

NIGHT :—
Targets in North-western GERMANY.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN

The air-fields at MILO and CATANIA (Sicily)
Enemy vessels north of SICILY (2 vessels sunk).
Communications centre of ENNA
(42 enemy planes shot down; 7 Allied planes missing).

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.

FAR EAST.

The air-field at VILA (Kolombangara).
The air-field at BALLALE (Bougainville Island).
The air-field at SALAMAUA (N. Guinea),
3 Jap barges off SAIDOR area.
The air-fields at LAE (N. Guinea).
LANGGOER (Kai Islands) and DOBO (Aroe Islands).
Enemy railroad installations at MYINGYAN (Burma).

14—7—43 (Wednesday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

No information available about day and night bombing.
Post and railway communications at MESSINA (Sicily).
ENNA (Sicily).
Patrols over Allied shipping, beaches and the battle areas.
Air-fields in South Italy.
Enemy shipping in the TYRRHENIAN Sea.
Marshalling yards at MESSINA.
Shipping off GREECE.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.
The railway junction at OREL.
Ammunition dumps at VOLKHOV.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions at KISKA (Aleutians).
Enemy installations at MEIKTILA and MYINGYAN (both in Burma).

15—7—43. (Thursday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

(9 enemy planes shot down, 7 Allied planes missing).

DAY :—
Offensive sweeps over the ENGLISH CHANNEL and Northern FRANCE.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

Docks and railway communications at (NAPLES) (Italy).
Docks at PALERMO (Sicily).
Intruder operations over Sicily and S. Italy.
Air-fields at FOGGIA (Italy).
METAPONTA (Gulf of TARANTO).
Air-fields at VIBO VALENTIA, CROTONE and REGGIO (all in South Italy).
The ferry terminus of SANGIOVANNI (Italy)
(13 Axis planes destroyed; 4 of ours missing).

RUSSIA

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

Jap base of MUBO (New Guinea).
The air-fields at KAHILI and BALLALE.
The town area of KOEPANG (Timor).
Shipping in BEAGLE channel.
KISKA (Aleutians).

16—7—43 (Friday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—
The railway yards at ABBEVILLE (3 Axis planes destroyed; no Allied loss).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

The air-field at BARI (Italy).
Switching and Transformer stations at BRUGHERIO and CISALAGO (Italy).
Targets near BOLOGNA.
Railways round MILAN (Italy).
Communications and air-fields in SICILY.

RUSSIA

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front

FAR EAST.

The air-field and Jap positions at MUNDA.
Jap positions in KISKA (Aleutians).
A Jap occupied village on the AKYAB Island (Burma).

17—7—43 (Saturday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

NIGHT :—
Air-fields and railway targets in FRANCE, HOLLAND and BELGIUM.
Shipping off the DUTCH coast (1 Allied plane missing).

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

(21 enemy planes shot down).
The Royal Arsenal at NAPLES (Italy).
Marshalling yards at NAPLES.
The harbour at CATANIA (Sicily).
Communications in SICILY.
Air-fields at MONTE CARVINO and POMIGLIANO (Italy).

RUSSIA.

The railway junction at OREL.
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Russian Front.

FAR EAST.

KISKA (Aleutians.)
NAURU Island.
River and coastal craft in the HUNTER BAY area (Burma).
Sampans near MYEBON (Burma).
Troop positions in the SINOH area (Burma).
Army huts near KALYMYO (Burma).
Cotton mills at MYINGYAN (Burma).
Warehouses, tracks and rolling stock at MONYWA.
A river steamer in the IRRAWADDY.
Enemy forces at CHAUMAWNGGA and KALUMGA (Burma).

18—7—43 (Sunday).

EUROPE (German occupied).

DAY :—
The air-field at ABBEVILLE (2 Axis planes shot down).
Air combats over the DUTCH coast (2 Axis planes shot down).
Enemy convoy off DENHELDER.

ITALY and the MEDITERRANEAN.

The docks at CATANIA.
Communications in SICILY.
Shipping in the TYRRHENIAN Sea.
The sea-plane base at PREBEZA (Greece).
Goods train and trucks in South ITALY.
Shipping north off SICILY.

RUSSIA.

Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the RUSSIAN Front.
The Ry. junction at OREL.
The town of NAVILIA.

FAR EAST.

The air-field at KAHILI (Bougainville).
The air-field and Jap positions at LAMBETI (N. Guinea).
Air-fields at RABAUL (N. Britain).
The jetty area at KAUKENAU (D.N. Guinea).
The air-field at LAUTEN (Timor).
KISKA (Aleutians).
River and coastal craft in the KALADAN (River Burma).
Rolling stock at MONYWA (Burma).
Enemy troops south of MAUNGDAW (Burma).
KALEMYO (Burma).

ENEMY AIR RAIDS.

13—7—43 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

One place in the coastal area in North-east ENGLAND. (3 Axis planes shot down).

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No information available.

14—7—43 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

BYELGOROD area.

FAR EAST.

RENDOVA (Solomons).
WAU area (New Guinea).
BENA—BENA area (New Guinea).

15—7—43 (Thursday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity

RUSSIA.

No information.

FAR EAST.

RENDOVA Island (Solomons).

16—7—43 (Friday).

BRITAIN.

No information.

RUSSIA.

BYELGOROD area.

FAR EAST.

Air combats over the Central SOLOMONS.

17—7—43 (Saturday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

The railway junction at OREL.

FAR EAST.

No information available.

18—7—43 (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No information available.

RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

ENGOI inlet (New Guinea).
Reconnaissance over Port DARWIN (1 Jap plane shot down).

19—7—43 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

No enemy air activity.

RUSSIA.

BYELGOROD area.

FAR EAST.

Reconnaissance over CEYLON (No bombs dropped).

SIDE LIGHTS.

SICILY. 'The eyes of the whole Empire will be upon us once the battle starts. We will see that they get good news and plenty of it'—so said Genl. Montgomery to his men on the eve of invasion, and the words have not proved bumptious. News from SICILY could not be better. One half of the island has been occupied. The Allied front is now a straight line across the heart of SICILY. The American advance in the western sector has led to the spectacular occupation of AGRIGENTINO and PALERMO, the capital of SICILY ; in the eastern sector, on the outskirts of CATANIA the bitterest battle of the campaign is being fought between the British Eighth Army and the German forces. The fall of CATANIA is imminent.

SYRACUSE and AUGUSTA which have already fallen are two of the most important ports on the E-coast facing the Aegean. CATANIA stands on the edge of a fair and fertile plain—the centre of production of 90 % of Italian Sulphur.

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THE MAGNITUDE OF THE OPERATIONS. The invasion of SICILY is not the simple operation that the parachute descent on CRETE was to the Germans. Compared with SICILY, NARVIK and DIEPPE are

bagatelle. Even the N. African landing, marvellous as it was, was only a surprise affair, on a territory of Darlans, where resistance, if any, was negligible. Not so SICILY, where an invasion was hourly expected and an enemy, equipped with the most modern weapons, had been preparing for months to meet the invader.

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SICILY—THE GATEWAY OF EUROPE. The enemy, as usual, is trying to minimise the importance of the Sicilian operations. He states that SICILY is not the European continent, nor an attack on SICILY an invasion of Festung Europe. But he has forgotten that SICILY is the gate-way of EUROPE—one of its few entrances.

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THE TWO STAGES. The Sicilian operation is in two stages. The first or the amphibian stage, consisting of landings, and the mastery of the sea-lanes, beaches, and bridgeheads, is over. The second or the land battle is proceeding far more rapidly than could have been expected.

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THE ENEMY'S CONFUSION. The different versions of the invasion put out by the BERLIN and ROME Radios indicate the confusion and terror that have seized the enemy. According to BERLIN, Allied paratroops have been annihilated, the rear has been cut and the invaders are retreating. According to ROME, the same paratroops have now joined the Anglo-American troops at RAGUSA, and the Allies are enlarging the bridgeheads at SYRACUSE, LICATA, GELA, PACHINO and AUGUSTA.

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THE ROOSEVELT—CHURCHILL MESSAGE. But, fortunately for the campaign, its fate does not depend on Axis mendacity over the ether. The fall of SICILY is certain, and the time has come for the Italians to choose between Mussolini and ITALY, between extinction and survival. The Allied march is irresistible. Either Mussolini and his Fascist tribe must go or ITALY will. Is it to be life and security, to the Italians, with honour; or defeat and death, with dishonour? Such are the alternatives which Churchill and Roosevelt, in a joint broadcast on July 16, placed before ITALY. The message, it should be noted, was addressed to *the people, not to Mussolini* who had long ago forfeited the regard of the Allies and was now losing fast his place even as a tyrant. The broadcast is both an appeal and a warning. It does not humiliate; far from being vindictive, it promises to save. The capitulation demanded of the Italians is honourable, and the reward 'a respected place in the family of European nations'. The message further recognises 'ITALY's ancient traditions of freedom and culture'; and 'the valour of her soldiers' though 'betrayed and abandoned'. The Allies seek no satisfaction in invading Italian soil and bringing on it the tragic devastation of war.

The official reply that, though the war was one of life and death there is no question of capitulation, has come from the Rome Radio.

But the voice of the radio is not the voice of the people of ITALY. They know that ITALY is lost, and that it is nemesis which is now at work, retribution for former felonious attacks on FRANCE, ALBANIA and GREECE. It is rather the voice of Fascist tyranny, of Carlo Scorza, the Fascist Party Secretary who broadcast on July 18:—

'Resist, resist, and resist. This is the Order of the Day for every Italian. Italy would feel that her past was in vain if she were not to do this duty.

'Italy is to-day in danger, more than at any time in her long history—Two empires—the richest and greatest—are bearing down upon Italy: they want to destroy her territorial and political unity'.

The voice of real ITALY, of the Italian people is very different as the following account, given by *Reuter*, of the liberation of a Sicilian town will show :—

" A town freed from Fascism.
Terrific welcome to Allied troops.
Political prisoners set at Liberty—Sicily—July 18.

" Our troops had a real taste to-day of the pleasures of liberating a town from Axis domination.

" They had passed through politically unconscious areas where there was an apathetic, and largely illiterate, population. But a small town this afternoon provided a sample of the reception, and demonstration awaiting the troops of the United Nations on the mainland of Europe. The population from children to the aged, lined the narrow streets, and clapped, cheered, smiled, and waved handkerchiefs as the British continued the chase of the fast retreating Germans towards Catania.

" There was nothing sham about the welcome, this was no feigned joy. The people smiled through their tears, and shouted "Viva Inglese" with emotion in their voices. It was a welcome which amazed to silence the arriving troops. A Greek village a Dutch town—any area in occupied Europe—could not have shown greater delight or been more vociferous. As our car slowed down a Sicilian man jumped on the running board, and shouted into the car in the most violent idiomatic Italian saying, in effect, 'Beat hell out of the Germans.'

" When the vehicle came to a stand-still it was the signal for the crowd to attempt to mob the car. It is astonishing how many heads, and hands can be squeezed through the window of an ordinary passenger car. For several minutes all three of us shook hands in all directions, receiving hundreds of pats on the back, while excited shoutings went on unceasingly.

Prisoners Released.

" A new note then crept into the shoutings, smiles faded, gesticulations increased, and with difficulty it was slowly possible to make out that they wished us to liberate their prisoners. At first we thought they meant captured British prisoners but they referred to Sicilians and I had the extreme pleasure of participating in the release of some of the first political prisoners in Europe to regain their freedom. The crowd led us to a forbidding-looking building, the custodian of which anticipated the knock and opened the door. Inside, confined in small cells—several in each—there were about 30 men whose ages varied between 18 and 60. They had been locked up in these wretched conditions for several months, and when freed burst into tears. Each man was seized by relatives, and embraced fiercely. Though called political prisoners they are better described as hunger rioters. "Fame" (hungry) was a frequent word upon the lips of the crowd. The crew of a passing tank threw out bars of chocolate, which were scrambled for and before we pushed on every cigarette in the car had been handed out. A young and pretty girl stretched an arm through the car window encircled the neck of an observer officer and pressed her cheek against his. It would be wrong to suggest the town had refound its soul. Two decades of Fascism had made too strong an imprint to

be wiped out in one afternoon. But the people realised, somehow, that something had been lifted from them, and as each political prisoner stepped into the street at least one of the four freedoms had been given to them. The right to grumble was acknowledged—freedom of speech had come back."

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CARLO SCORZA. The following portrait of Carlo Scorza is from the *Times of India* :—" Political gangsters now deputise for the deflated Mussolini. Party Secretary, Carlo Scorza, an old stalwart and a 'perfect fascist' has come into prominence as the newly appointed Czar of the much-threatened Italian front. Mussolini is making certain that those who helped him to power and those who fattened on his favours do not desert the cause. Fascism, threatened from within and without, needs tough, ruthless and more courageous men to run the administration. Scorza is the very man for the task. Well-versed in the arts of gangsterdom, he has been described as a 'killer and terrorist by nature, completely ruthless, completely brutal."

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AMGOT. An *ad hoc* Government has been set up in conquered SICILY, with General Sir Harold Alexander as Governor. The administration briefly termed Amgot (Allied Military Government of Occupied Territories), the first of its kind, is a military Government, without any political implications and is directed by the Combined Chiefs of Staff at WASHINGTON, through General Eisenhower. It sets the pattern for similar administrative agencies the Allies will set up as other occupied territories are liberated. The Amgot officers are drawn from British and U. S. posts as remote as BURMA and CALIFORNIA.

General Alexander's first proclamation as Military Governor orders the dissolution of all Fascist Party organisations in SICILY, annuls discriminatory laws and guarantees personal and property rights.

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THE TABLES TURNED. The Red Army has turned the tables on the Wehrmacht. On July 5, the Germans launched their three-pronged offensive on OREL, KURSK and BYELGOROD, but chiefly to straighten the Russian bulge at KURSK, which threatened their centre. Failing in their attempt they relapsed into the defensive. Ten days later it was the turn of the Russians to take the offensive, which has now resulted in major breaks-through, N. and S. of OREL, comparable, we are told, to those at VORONEJ and the Don Steppes near STALINGRAD last year. Von Kluge has lost 60,000 men in the 10 days' battle, with hundreds of Tanks and Air-craft. The approaches to the BYELGOROD front, where the Germans made an initial impression, have been transformed into a defensive Russian fortress. Thus the battle of the KURSK bulge has recoiled on the enemy. And matters are getting worse. According to the latest reports the Soviet thrusts are extending to the Mius-Donetz and Kuban sectors.

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BURIDAN'S ASS. Hitler's position is that of the proverbial ass placed equally between two haystacks. The beast, we are told, died of starvation unable to decide on which haystack it should feed first. Attacked in RUSSIA and SICILY, he is willing to wound but afraid to strike. All through April we were told that the Fuehrer possessed the 'strategic freedom ' to strike where he would—the freedom of the donkey in the fable, but that the Fuehrer was waiting for the heaven-sent spark—the inspiration, to decide. But whether he decided or not the oracle finally

refused to declare its intentions. Then came the *Volteface*, the denial of any German intention to take the offensive, followed by the statement that it was rather the Russians that contemplated an offensive which would synchronise with the invasion of SICILY. But, nevertheless, the Germans did take the offensive at KURSK on July 5 and having failed, now put out the legend that they have 'succeeded in staying the Russian attacks.' The explanation of this amazing *Volteface* is that Hitler is afraid of misfortune. He is trying to save himself not only from the Russian guns but also from the cat-calls of his own countrymen. If he succeeded in stemming the Russian advance, he would say 'you see we never thought of taking the offensive, we were only waiting to throw the Russians back.'

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CHANGE IN GERMAN PROPAGANDA. Since the invasion of SICILY the earlier propaganda that the European fortress was impregnable has receded. It is even admitted that the Allies possess enough tonnage to land and enough forces to break through. Even Goebbels is forced to confess that 'in certain circumstances a British-American invasion attempt *can* lead to the decision of the war'. So another line of propaganda has been substituted. The outer or coastal wall of EUROPE's fortress may go but the inner wall of land mines and barbed-wire round the Reich, CZECHOSLOVAKIA and POLAND will remain. But nothing is said of what is to become of the BALKANS, of ITALY, of FRANCE, the LOW COUNTRIES and NORWAY. Will not GERMANY then become another PANTELLARIA, when its outer defences are smashed ?

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THE WRITING ON THE WALL. A new appeal is also made to rouse German vanity. GERMANY must be defended at all costs—GERMANY 'the citadel of European culture in a sea of barbarism', the home of arts and civilisation, which the British and the Americans were deliberately seeking to destroy. So goes the sentimental sob stuff. But the fate which has now overtaken GERMANY is the sequel to WARSAW and ROTTERDAM, to what the Nazi said on Nov. 22, 1940, 'May God grant the destruction of ENGLAND. Every German should remember that this is the mission of the German people.'

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ALLIED STRENGTH. The following figures of Allied strength, quoted by the *Indian News Letter* of July 17, 1943 are taken from the *Soviet War News* :—

ARMY.—British Empire, 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 men available for the European theatre ; U. S. 1,500,000 to 2,000,000, French, 500,000.

TANKS PRODUCTION PER MONTH.—Britain, 2,000 ; CANADA, 500 ; U. S. 3,000 ; GERMANY and her satellites, 3000.

ARTILLERY PRODUCTION PER MONTH.—BRITAIN, 3,000 ; CANADA, 1,000 ; U. S. 3,000 ; enemy, 4,000.

PLANES PRODUCTION PER MONTH.—BRITAIN, CANADA and U. S. 10,000 to 11,000 ; Enemy, 4,000.

SHIPS PRODUCTION PER YEAR.—BRITAIN and CANADA, 3,000,000 to 3,500,000 U. S. 8,000,000 (The U. S. figure gives the production of last year ; this year it is rising in the ratio of 1,000 : 800 tons a month).

ARCHIPELAGIAN WAR-FARE. BERLIN and TOKYO belittle Allied strategy in the Pacific as island-hopping and declare that it has led to no results. But what about Japanese aims and results? The nature of the terrain in the Pacific islands is such that spectacular results, for one thing, are impossible. Land fighting, such as is taking place near MUNDA and SALAMAUA now is through trackless jungle. The Allied aim is as much to prevent the enemy from advancing as for themselves to advance. A summing up of the results of the past months will show how, though slowly, the Allies have already achieved appreciable results. In North Pacific the enemy is in the process of being driven out of the ALEUTIANS, from which he hoped to command land and air communications to the U.S; in the Central Pacific he has been kept out of MIDWAY, from which he aimed at HAWAI; in South Pacific, the Torres Straits have been secured, and the way to AUSTRALIA blocked. Further more, AUSTRALIA has been converted into a base of attack and the successes in the SOLOMONS and NEW GUINEA have not only pierced the Japanese perimeter but are forcing the enemey to sea action. Worst of all, Japanese armies are so much tied up in these island fights that they could not be spared in any strength to liquidate the six year old war in China.

Archipelagian war is different from war on mainland. In RUSSIA it is a wholly land war; in NORTH AFRICA it was a war with a sea flank; in the Pacific the sea surrounds and interpenetrates the land area; the sea itself is a theatre. To a large extent, it is air-war also, but aircraft alone cannot command the sea-lanes; nor can the warships, where the lanes are too narrow. An undefended Archipelago can be taken by surprise but cannot be retained without sea power. The Japanese have a fleet in being, which they are afraid of bringing into action. But if they hold back the Allies will creep from island to island and if the fleet come out, there will be a Taranto.

The key to the Pacific is the sea itself. Japanese losses in men are already high, which a nation obsessed with the cult of Hara-Kiri may belittle; but the losses in ship and plane, which are mounting high, cannot simply be ignored.

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MARTINIQUE. Admiral Roberts, the Vichy Governor has resigned; rather he has been forced to capitulate to a revolt of the army garrison in Front de France, on June 18, and to street-demonstrations. He leaves behind 40 million dollars of French gold, which will be taken over by the French Committee of National Liberation. Henri Hop Penout, who has succeeded him to the Govenorship, is a member of the French Military Mission in WASHINGTON. The new Government has declared its willingness to place all it has, including shipping, at the disposal of the Allies.

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THE DEFENCE LOAN. The call has come to the nation to put its savings into the Defence Loan. We do not wish to expatiate learnedly on inflation and deflation, paper currency, speculation and profiteering. We appeal by referring to the plain and simple fact that for INDIA's war, for INDIA's safety, INDIA herself must pay, and that it is a blessing, and a fortunate circumstance, that, instead of being asked to pay, a way has been found to find the money. The Defence Loan is only a *loan*, not a *tax*, not a *gift* but, just a loan that will come back, saved and secured, in these difficult times and with interest.

The investors need not be the moneyed rich only. Many a middle class family has a saving and the Defence Loan is the best way to save the saving. The practice of a little austerity, not necessarily miserliness, would enlarge the saving. Feasts and festivities need not be lavish ; in dress and food austerity may be practised as a virtue. An anna saved is an anna gained, besides being a bullet cast for victory.

SEA POWER CRACKS HITLER'S FORTRESS.

BASIS OF INVASION FORCE.

(*A. J. Mc Whinnie*).

Sicily shows how the Allied sea power can crack Hitler's supposed fortress. The Axis know now that shore batteries, mines and traps of all descriptions cannot keep the invaders from landing.

They know that the so called "iron ring" round Europe is far from invincible. But they still do not know where the next blows will be struck. The invasion of Sicily seems to have come about suddenly, but it is in fact the effect of steady and relentless pressure of sea power that made it possible. That this force must have its complement in the air is a truism to-day, just as it is a truism that capital ships must have screening light forces on the surface, and that armies must have air cover, tanks and artillery.

But the landings with all their complications of supply have been made possible by the naval power of two of the greatest naval nations in the world—Britain and America claiming Mussolini's "*mare nostrum*" for the Allies.

It has been a long job for fhe Allies. It will be a long job even now. It would be foolish to paint too rosy a picture of the immediate future. Dictators cannot—dare not, if they value their lives—give up until they have to.

SWARMING LIKE FLIES.

It has been stated that there were more than 2,000 ships, big and small engaged in this mammoth operation. From the air, these ships looked like vast swarms of flies. Yet the Axis sea and air power was powerless to stop them.

British minesweepers, which led the way, mastered the Italian minefields. The big guns ashore were silenced from the air and by the big naval guns which covered the invasion forces. Axis aircraft could not cope with the tremendous air umbrella over the biggest armada of all time.

Observers should watch for indications of Axis alarm at the passive attitude of their naval units during the invasion. I am against any suggestions of crack appearing in either the German or Italian navies. But it must be a fact that the higher the morale of those navies the more dissatisfied the Axis naval men must feel that they were not allowed to make any move against the invaders.

It seems certain, now that the rôle of the small but powerful German navy is precisely that of the bigger and even more powerful Italian navy, that they are both being held back to defend vital parts of the long 12,000 miles of Axis coastline against new invasion moves. Meanwhile, the U-boats are lining up for their next campaign. They too failed during the most critical period of the war.

Reports from London and Washington indicate that by their inability to intercept record numbers of pre-invasion convoys during May and June, U-boats failed to affect the Allied shipping strength required for the invasion of Sicily.

TWO MILLION MORE TONS FOR INVASION.

The vital fact is that though there must be lulls in the U-boat warfare, there are no lulls in the Allied shipbuilding. The Allies during May and June probably built 2,000,000 tons of shipping over and above even the exaggerated sinking claims of Axis propagandists. The importance of that figure is that it means 2,000,000 more tons of Allied shipping, not only for the present operations but for the next invasion moves.

Mussolini imitated the inspiring call of Churchill. When Britain seemed to be in imminent danger of invasion, Churchill told the people of Britain. "We shall fight them on the beaches". As the zero hour drew nearer for the invasion of Sicily, Mussolini said: "We shall fight them on the beaches".

GERMANY'S FATAL NAVAL WEAKNESS.

But there does not appear to have been much fighting on the beaches of Sicily. There was no need for fighting on the beaches of Britain. The German invasion forces had neither the shipping strength nor the naval power to cross the 20 miles of water separating France from the white cliffs of Dover. Hitler, who thought that air power had bridged the seas, so that there were no longer any islands, realises to-day that only sea-power in the last resort can join the islands to the Continent.

Pounding by bombers of vital targets is a very effective softening process. But only ships can land supply and maintain invasion armies in sufficient strength to ensure victory. The world is no longer in any doubt now—when the Allies use more than 2,000 ships to penetrate Hitler's fortress—that the Allied formula for victory is working out. The basis of that formula is thousands of ships working with clockwork precision in the closest co-operation with armies and aircraft.

BELGIUM CONTINUES TO FIGHT THE AXIS.

We take the opportunity to review briefly the heroic and valuable Belgian contribution to the cause of the United Nations.

The first task of the Belgian government, which had taken up its quarters in London after tne Franco—German Armistice, was in the sphere of foreign policy. On November 29, 1940, following the torpedoing of the steamship *Kabalo* by an italian submarine, the Belgian government announced that in view of this and other acts of hostility, Belgium intended in future to put her relationship with Italy on a similar basis. This was, in fact, tantamount to an official declaration of war. This was followed by breaking off relations with Finland, Denmark, Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania. Belgium was represented at the two meetings of the Allied Powers held on June 12 and September 24 1941 and became a signatory to the Grand Alliance of Washington.

THE ARMY.

In the Allied war effort against the Axis powers, the Belgian armed forces have played a notable part. The calling up of Belgians was decided by a decree of December

3, 1940 when hundreds of Belgian citizens from Argentine, China, Uruguay and the Dutch East Indies and elsewhere travelled thousands of miles to join the Belgian Army in England. Soon the Belgian Army was fighting shoulder to shoulder with the British in Abyssinia, and Asosa, Gambela and Saio bear witness to its gallantry and enterprise. Gen. Cassera, commanding the Italian troops of Galla Sidano capitulated to the Belgian Colonial Forces in July 1941, bringing over with him 15,000 troops and a considerable amount of war material. Belgian colonial troops, according to the Radio-Leopoldville, are now waiting in Egypt to share in the invasion of Europe and to bring about the liberation of their motherland.

THE AIR FORCE.

By March 1943, there was a Belgian Spitfire Squadron with the R. A. F. Fighter Command and a Belgian Fighter Squadron in Africa. Five British Fighters Squadrons are commanded by Belgians. The nucleus of the Belgian Air Force in Britain was formed by Belgian airmen who were in France and crossed over to England to join the R. A. F. The Belgian Air Force played a heroic part in the Battle of Britain, took part in the raid on Dieppe (August 19, 1942) and by February 15, 1943, had shot down 75 enemy aircraft, in the course of fighter "sweeps" over German occupied territory.

THE NAVY.

More than 200 trawlers and one hundred light boats found shelter in British ports after the capitulation of Belgium, and since then have continued their work without flinching at the danger of mines, or torpedoes and aeroplanes. After the invasion, the Government instructed all Belgian ships to proceed to Britain—a measure which put at the disposal of the Allies not only a supplementary tonnage which can be estimated at 350,000 tons, but also brought to Britain valuable raw materials and foodstuffs. Ever since, the Belgian mercantile fleet has played its part in maintaining the vital supply lines of the Allies, and its ships manned by Belgian crews have plied regularly the high seas.

BELGIAN CONGO.

The part played by the Belgian colony in Africa forms a remarkable chapter of the Belgian war effort. The Belgian Congo covers an area of nearly 100,000 sq. miles, as much as 80 times the size of Belgium, to which must be added the mandated Territories Ruanda-Urundi with an area of 25,000 sq. miles. The natural resources of the Belgian Congo are numerous and immense, and its mineral production includes most of the metals that are useful to the war industries. The Katanga Mines bear comparison with the most advanced installations in the world. The Congo basin lends itself admirably to the production of rubber, a commodity whose importance cannot be overrated today. Since the beginning of the war, the whole of the exportable resources of the Congo have been placed at the disposal of the Allies, in accordance with commercial agreements which have been successively renewed and are still in force.

The Congo is becoming more and more a great cross-road in the world's communications, whether by air, river or land. Its airfields are multiplying in number, and the amount of material carried by railways, road and water is constantly increasing.

Belgium is suffering the agony of war for the second time in twenty years in a manner to which there is no parallel in Europe today. But the Government in London and the population in Belgium have shown that they are still unvanquished. The strength and organised resistance of the Belgian people has evoked the admiration of all

freedom-loving people in the world. It was Napoleon who said of the Belgians: "In a duel between the sword and the spirit the latter will inevitably triumph." Today both the sword and the spirit are united in a finely tempered weapon to drive back the invader from the native soil.

GREECE UNVANQUISHED.

Heavy Liberator bombers have visited the Greek airfields of Sedes, Eleusis and Hassini, and have given point to Axis fears of an Allied invasion through Greece. Sedes lies south of Salonika, and Salonika has been a sore point with the Germans ever since that fateful month of September in 1918, when Allied forces including the Greeks operating from the Salonika front, broke into the Vardar valley and caused the collapse of the Central Powers on the Eastern Front. The Cairo report that all Greek guerilla bands are to come under the direction of a supreme Allied Command in the Middle East, will be yet another source of irritation to the Germans in their plans to defend Greece from an Allied assault.

NAZI DEFENCES.

The Axis is really getting worried about its position in Greece, and is busy fortifying the island bases into outer bastions calculated to slow up an Allied attack against Greece. Crete bristles with formidable coast-defence fortifications, interlocking defences in depth, casemates, tank and parachutist traps, barbed-wire and minefields. In rugged Scarpanto a highly trained garrison keeps watch from head-quarters established in deep rock caves in the mountain sides. Rhodes is strongly fortified, and shelters behind minefields under the protection of Italian shore-batteries, a flotilla of boats, submarines, light bombers and fighters. Leros and Samos have strong defences, and beyond the island of Chios, north-westward toward the bridgehead of South-Eastern Europe, lie strong Thracian coast defences, the imposing batteries and casemates of Salonika Gulf. On the mainland itself the port of Dedeagatch has been turned into a first class base, and has been connected with the Salonika-Cavalla military highway. A full dress conference of Axis generals was recently held in a village near Salonika, and latest reports speak of German troops replacing the Bulgarians on the coastal stretches of Greek Thrace.

GREEK GUERILLAS.

But while the Axis is busy strengthening the outer ramparts of Greece, within the fortress itself is a gigantic Trojan horse which is an incessant nightmare to the occupying authorities. Some 30,000 Greek guerillas, aided by 3,000 Britons, Australians and New Zealanders, who remained after the main Allied forces evacuated Greece in 1941, are waging constant warfare on Axis troops from mountain hide-outs and inflicting substantial losses.

One group of guerillas under Maj. Douras concentrates its attention on German and Bulgarian convoys passing through Macedonia and Thrace, and is in contact with Mihailovitch's forces in Yugoslavia and Albania. He and Capt. Pappas, who operates near Thermopylae, manage to cause enough derailments on the Athens-Salonika route to keep this link in the Axis supply line from running more than a few days at a time. Another group is gathered near Sparta, but the strongest force is in Crete under Gen. Mantakas, who specialises in kidnapping German officers and holding them as hostages for the good behaviour of their brethren.

The number of active guerillas is small, but measured by the amount of trouble they give the Axis soldiery their number might well be 300,000. German aeroplanes recently dropped leaflets signed by the Quisling premier promising amnesty to those who laid down arms by May 20, and threatening severe action against those who continued to resist. The Greek guerillas will lay down their arms only when they, and the liberators from abroad, have driven back the invaders from the native soil, and when the blue and white flag on the Acropolis flutters once again in the breezes from the Aegean Sea.

POLES IN GERMAN UNIFORM.

GLAD TO SURRENDER TO ALLIES IN SICILY.

Behind the railing of the flower-filled public gardens of Licata, a little knot of German prisoners was sitting in the shade, cables Reuter's Special Correspondent from Licata in South Sicily.

This afternoon when spoken to in German they answered in Polish. All were Poles, except two Yugoslavs. They were all wearing German uniforms. Most of them came from the Polish Corridor, or Danzig or Upper Silesia.

Because of their German names, they were listed as *Volksdeutsche* or racial Germans. That meant that they were forcibly conscripted into the German army and had the honour of fighting for Hitler's "New Order", which had already destroyed their homes and killed their parents, and flung their brothers into prison camps.

They were sent to Sicily. It was obvious that they could not be trusted to garrison any occupied country, because it was obvious where their sympathies must lie. As soon as possible they got across to the Americans, and could scarcely find words in German to express their delight at being captured.

The Yugoslavs too were members of some alleged German minority. It would be dangerous to deduce too much from this, but it is another glaring example of Hitler's shortage of manpower.

THE JAPANESE IS NOT A SUPERMAN.

BY HENRY KEYS.

The Japs have continued to fight in the South-Eastern Solomons with a persistence and desperation which would be the height of reckless waste, if it were not for the fact that if they fail to establish a strong base here their plans will be thrown out of gear.

In essence, the war in the Pacific has developed into a struggle for bases. Island-to-island warfare seems to be inevitable for some time to come. The reason—the limited range of our aircraft, bombers as well as fighters, and the acute shortage of ships.

Even so, it is these island struggles that will kill Japan, for in the first place she has not yet learned about discretion sometimes being the better part of valour. In the second place she has committed herself so far that she has now no option but to fight to a finish.

And for Japan, fighting to a finish has meant disastrous fighting.

Look at her five months' record in the southeastern Solomons—25 combatant craft, including two battleships, sunk, ten others probably sunk, 46 damaged, 26 transports and cargo ships sunk, seven others damaged.

In the land fighting on the islands of Florida, Tulagi, Gavutu, Tanamboga and Guadalcanar she has lost, on a conservative estimate, a total of 30,000 of her best soldiers. The figure is probably as high as 35,000.

In her efforts to send reinforcements to Guadalcanar she has lost at sea at least another 30,000 troops.

Her air losses have reached an enormous figure—more than 1,000 counted planes.

Of more consequence than this record, however, is the fact that the Japanese have failed utterly in their primary objective, to wrest back Guadalcanar, in spite of tremendous effort and an unstinted willingness to pay whatever price was demanded.

The importance of Guadalcanar to the Japanese is that it is the last of the eastern Solomon Islands suitable for use as an air-base. The other two, Malaita and San Cristoval, are wild and mountainous, their jungle-clad hills tumbling right down into the sea.

The next step was the occupation of the New Hebrides, and the invasion of the Fijis. Our convenient supply line would then be convenient no longer, aerially it would have been impossible.

BEATEN—BY DAYS.

The Americans must have beaten Japan in the race for the complete occupation of Guadalcanar by a little more than a couple of weeks at the most.

This partly explains the tedious fighting that has since taken place. Speed was obviously essential, the organization for the supply of the invading troops had to be spontaneous and as necessity demanded, rather than prepared long beforehand.

The upshot has been that the Japs have found themselves unable to make any radical alteration in their Pacific blueprint, hence they have gone into New Georgia, established a good air base there, and flooded the island with troops.

The Munda field must be regarded as more than a mere aerial interception base. Actually in significance it is a second Guadalcanar, although without the same degree of threat, but none the less dangerous in the long-range scheme of things.

The only reasonable approach to Munda is through the narrow channel between Arundel Island and Georgia, a hazardous passage to-day if ever there was one.

TRICKS BETTERED.

The Japanese to-day, and I am speaking particularly of Japanese soldiers, are labouring under a terrific handicap in their so-called Indian style of warfare, for which every one of them has been trained and equipped.

Their handicap is that they are committed to it, and that the Americans, who are doing the bulk of the fighting in this area, have mastered it to the extent that they are better at it than the Japs themselves.

The United States marines were the first men to attack and beat the Jap in a big way. They proved that those little barbarians could be beaten in their chosen style of warfare, that the determined ruthless white men were not only as good as, but superior to the Jap.

They proved something else, too, something that has often made me wonder again about the conquest of Malaya and Singapore—that if the Japs were robbed of the initiative and opportunity to practise their beloved outflanking movements they could not break a defensive line.

CAN'T BREAK LINE.

I have yet to see the Japanese break a well-planned line, but I have seen their own lines broken, and strong pockets of resistance cut off and annihilated.

I have seen the Japs exert every effort in their power to batter their way through, seen a few make it, only to have the line closed behind them again.

In the East the Jap revealed himself for what he was—a killer. He lost no sleep over the slaughter and massacre of thousands upon thousands of innocent, inoffensive civilians of his own color.

In fact, he deliberately drove the battleground into the cities and towns of Asia, knowing the disorganization and strain imposed in caring for the wounded and sick, knowing also the white man's ingrained inability to put up for long with the sufferings of these non-combatants.

THEY RUSH BLINDLY.

I think the explanation of their success and their failure is that they still believe that merciless punishment would break the spirit of the white man. That is why on their banzai bayonet charges, few and far between now, they rush blindly into machine-gun fire, through a rain of artillery shells, stupidly shouting, "Malini, you die tonight. Malini, surrender." But to the men who have their measure there is not any terror, and certainly no death, in plunging into a mob of yelling fools.

That is why they have fallen, their bullet-riddled bodies piling high on one another.

They will continue to fall like that because it is too late for them to be taught differently. As a matter of fact, on paper, and in the field, Jap tactics are not impressive.

Indeed, the only real value they ever seem to have had was their novelty and surprise with which, like children frightened in the dark, we obligingly terrorized ourselves.

While no soldier or officer fighting the Jap is prepared to underestimate him in any way, few are prepared to concede he is very good. Certainly not the "superman" of a year ago.

The only thing that makes him tough and hard to deal with is his fanatical determination to die rather than surrender.

SIAM'S PLIGHT.

Since her occupation by the Japanese, Siam's national debt has increased by about 300,000,000 bahts. Government bonds of all kinds have been issued, in order to meet the recent large yearly deficits caused by the heavy expenditure incurred to meet the various requirements of the Japanese invaders, such as the construction of strategic roads, aerodromes and railways for the convenience of the Japanese military operations. The bonds cannot be absorbed by the public, who are bled white by high taxation and

high prices. Hence they must be absorbed by the banks and other institutions, including the savings banks, whose funds have already been used—to the inconvenience of their depositors—in various semi-Government enterprises.

Prices have gone up by leaps and bounds since the occupation. Rice is now over 100 per cent higher than in pre-war days. This must be due to two factors, namely, shortage (in the land of plenty) and inflation. The shortage is brought about partly by feeding the invaders and the people in the newly acquired territories, and partly by growing cotton in place of rice at Japanese orders. Whilst devaluation of the baht to the level of the yen sent up prices of imported goods, heavy note circulation to meet excessive expenditure, contributes to inflation. Needless to say, the Central Bank is used by the Siamese Government to issue more notes against Government bonds and credit to meet the requirements of the Government.

THE MITCHELL MEMORIAL AWARD.

Maj.-Gen. Claire L. Chennault, Commander of the U. S. Army 14th Air Force, and organiser of the famed Flying Tigers squadron of American volunteer fighters in China, has been named the U. S. citizen making the outstanding individual contribution to aviation during the year. In recognition, he has been presented with the Gen. William E. Mitchell Memorial Award.

General Chennault went to China in 1937 to help train Chinese flyers. There, he organised the American volunteer Group among former U. S. servicemen, and the success of the group won him acclaim. The Flying Tigers destroyed almost 400 Jap aircraft, before the group was disbanded last year upon the formation of a U. S. Army Air Force in the China theatre.

The Mitchell Memorial Award is named after the famous American pioneer of air power, and former chief of the aerial fighting forces of the American Expeditionary Forces in the last war.

AIRBORNE SURGICAL UNITS OF I. A. M. C.

It is now disclosed that the Indian Army Medical Corps has airborne surgical units. Fully trained and equipped, this airborne counterpart of the field ambulance, has a staff of doctors, orderlies, and stretcher-bearers, who can stand the strain and stress involved in parachute jumping, and ready to go into action wherever required.

The training has been carried out with paratroop formations, of which these flying surgical units form an integral part. At any time these units can be detached from the paratroop formation for rush jobs in forward areas, where they and their equipment can be parachuted, thus bringing medical aid to forces operating in areas where normal methods of transport are impossible. Where the nature of the ground permits, aircraft can land to take off serious cases requiring urgent hospital attention, as was done in Burma recently, when 17 sick and wounded members of the Wingate Expedition, were skilfully moved by air to hospital in India.

CHEMICALS IN WAR.

By F. C. Cross.

I fear that to a great majority of people the world 'chemicals' still conjures up a mental picture of those rows of small bottles which line the chemists' shops.

For me to say that those bottles do not contain chemicals would, of course, be nonsense—but they are pharmaceuticals or pharmaceutical chemicals—and they are dealt with in pounds or ounces. Real chemicals, the chemicals which are the basic raw materials of war industry, are thought of in thousands of tons.

Now, so that you can understand just how greatly war is dependent upon chemicals, I am going to run through a list of the basic equipment of the fighting services. First of all our soldiers, sailors and airmen alike are dressed in clothes of cotton or wool. Chemicals are needed to make that cloth, and more are needed to make the khaki, dye with which they are coloured. Then there are leather belts and boots and so on. Leather cannot be made without chemicals. Each man is concerned with the firing of some gun or weapon which is made of various metals, and these metals cannot be refined without chemicals. To fire the gun some explosive is needed, and all explosives are merely mixtures of chemicals.

Guns and soldiers are dependent upon transport which runs on rubber tyres; rubber cannot be made without chemicals, and don't forget that the guns and the transports are painted with paints which are dependent upon chemicals for their production.

I could go on with the list by mentioning every single item of equipment if I had the time, and in every case I should have to tell you that production at some stage or another is dependent completely and utterly upon certain industrial chemicals. There is not an industry that I can think of which does not handle bulk chemicals in some part of its process and which, in fact, could never live without such chemicals.

This may surprise some of you, but it may make you realize just how fundamentally an important part chemicals do play at all times, particularly in times of war. No vital industry, such as those which refine the natural products of the earth and shape them into weapons of war—iron and steel—none could operate successfully unless we had first manufactured the chemicals with which they carry out their work.

NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

FROM TOWN TO VILLAGE.

Do you, an educated person, ever try to give the farmer any help? Does not the whole future of India depend upon the willingness of the townsman to share his wider, and more progressive knowledge with the conservative people of the villages?

To-day there is a special opportunity both to help the farmer *and* help yourself. Get in touch with anyone you know on the land, and spread the urgent message to *Grow More Food.* So that you may see ample supplies of food in the towns this year preach the Five-Point Plan for increased Food-production :—

1. **Stop growing cash crops for which there is now no export market; change over to food crops;**
2. **Repair old irrigation works and build new ones;**
3. **Use only the best seed;**

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4. **Cultivate every foot of waste soil ;**
5. **Dispose of surplus cattle which are a burden on the land.**

Now is our chance to ensure that the soil of India is made to yield not only enough food for our wartime needs, but permanent *abundance of food*, so that all our people may always have enough to eat.

GOOD INVESTMENT.

To-day, with an unlimited demand for food crops, guaranteed by the needs of a world starved and ruined by war, investment in wells, tanks, bunds, and all other aids to irrigation will pay a handsome dividend. Government is committed to the policy of ensuring adequate prices to the cultivator.

BAD INVESTMENT.

Grain hoarded in the villages or elsewhere is a bad investment now, for Government is going to smash speculators and hoarders. The effect of hoarding has been to force prices up beyond what the consumer can afford. Reasonable and quick profit is the wise farmer or middle-man's policy to-day.

PUDUKKOTTAI STATE NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU.

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PROGRAMME.

LECTURE CLVI (*Batch 1*).

24- 7-43	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.
25- 7-43	Surakkadu	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Kottaikkadu	... 7.30 ,,
26- 7-43	Thiruvarangulam	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Vamban	... 7.30 ,,
27- 7-43	Malaiyur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Karambakkudi	... 7.30 ,,
28- 7-43	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a.m.
,,	Rani's High School	... 10.45 ,,
28- 7-43	College A English	... 10.45 a.m.
,,	College B Tamil	... 10.45 ,,
,,	Ramachandrapuram	... 7.00 p.m.
,,	Rayavaram	... 7.30 ,,
29- 7-43	Viralimalai	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Poruvai	... 7.30 ,,
30- 7-43	Valaramanikkam.	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Embal	... 7.30 ,,

LECTURE CLVII. (*Batch 2*).

31- 7-43	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.
1- 8-43	Nirpalani	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Avoor	... 7.30 ,,
2- 8-43	Karaiyur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Idaiyattur	... 7.30 ,,
3- 8-43	Vadavalam	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Sammattividuthi	... 7.30 ,,
4- 8-43	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a.m.
,,	Rani's High School	... 10.45 ,,
4- 8-43	College A English	... 10.45 a.m.
,,	College B Tamil	... 10.45 ,,
,,	Nartamalai	... 7.00 p.m.
,,	Uppiliakkudi	... 7.30 ,,
5- 8-43	Andakkulam	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Killanur	... 7.30 ,,
6- 8-43	Kodumbalur	... 7.00 ,,
,,	Viralur	... 7.30 ,,

RECRUITING—ADVERTISEMENT—4 p. m.

24— 7—43	Vettamviduthi.
25— 7—43	Marudankonviduthi.
26— 7—43	Konnaiyur.
27— 7—43	Perambur.
28— 7—43	Karambakkudi.
29— 7—43	Kulipirai.
30— 7—43	Pudukkottai.
31— 7—43	Ponnamaravathi.
1— 8—43	Embal.
2— 8—43	Kiranur.
3— 8—43	Konapattu.
4— 8—43	Rayavaram.
5— 8—43	Alangudi.
6— 8—43	Pudukkottai.

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